



Welcome to the  
Probate and Family Court  
Department of the  
Massachusetts Trial Court.

Many Probate and  
Family Law matters  
involve complex and  
valuable legal rights.  
You should always  
speak with an attorney  
before filing any papers.

# LOOKING FOR LEGAL ASSISTANCE?

This booklet  
contains a list of  
Lawyer Referral Services,  
Free Legal Resources and  
Legal Aid Agencies in

## ESSEX COUNTY

## LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICES

## LEGAL RESOURCES

The  
Massachusetts  
Trial Court  
provides free  
legal resources

## MASSACHUSETTS BAR ASSOCIATION

### LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE

Referrals to private attorneys, including reduced fee panel.

Call (617) 654-0400 or (800) 392-6164

e-mail: [lrs@massbar.org](mailto:lrs@massbar.org)

To register online, visit

[www.massbar.org/lawhelp/](http://www.massbar.org/lawhelp/)

## BOSTON BAR ASSOCIATION

### LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE

Referrals to private attorneys, including reduced fee panel.

Serves mainly Greater Boston, inside Route 495, but will  
provide referrals throughout Massachusetts.

Call (617) 742-0625 or e-mail: [lrs@bostonbar.org](mailto:lrs@bostonbar.org)

For more information, visit

[www.bostonbar.org/lrs/index](http://www.bostonbar.org/lrs/index)

## LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE

### OF ESSEX COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

Referrals to private attorneys in Essex County.

Call (978) 741-7888 or (800) 228-2574

### NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD

Serves Lowell and Lynn. Lawyer referral service geared to  
low and moderate income clients, women and minority  
rights issues but will take any case. Spanish speaking staff  
available.

Call (617) 227-7008 Mon - Fri 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
or leave a message

### MASSACHUSETTS JUDICIAL BRANCH WEB SITE

The official web site of the Judicial Branch includes  
judicial profiles, addresses, phone numbers and  
directions for courthouses as well as other useful  
information about the Trial Court. Click on  
[www.state.ma.us/courts](http://www.state.ma.us/courts)

ESSEX LAW LIBRARY  
Superior Courthouse  
34 Federal Street  
Salem, MA 01970

LAWRENCE LAW LIBRARY  
Fenton Judicial Center  
2 Appleton Street  
Lawrence, MA 01840

The Massachusetts Trial Court Law Libraries are open to the public, providing legal reference services and legal research assistance. The Salem library is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The Lawrence library is open from 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Friday; and 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday. Ask at the Registry of Probate for the Law Libraries pamphlet which provides more details.

Call (978) 741-0674 (Salem)  
(978) 687-7608 (Lawrence)  
or visit the Law Libraries web site  
[www.lawlib.state.ma.us](http://www.lawlib.state.ma.us)

TEL-LAW

Tel-Law is a collection of recorded messages designed to answer basic questions about the law. Tel-Law is fully automated and you can access it 24 hours/day by calling (617) 338-0669. (Toll charges may apply)

WEB SITE

The MBA's web site offers answers to basic legal questions. Point your browser to [www.massbar.org](http://www.massbar.org)

DIAL-A-LAWYER

The first Wednesday of every month you can get free legal help, by telephone, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Lawyer volunteers staff phones to answer your questions. Call (617) 338-0610

**LEGAL  
SERVICE  
AGENCIES**

These resources  
are available  
only to very  
low income and  
elderly  
individuals

MERRIMACK VALLEY LEGAL SERVICES

170 Common Street, Suite 303  
Lawrence, MA 01840  
Call (978) 687-1177

Handles divorce and custody cases for primary caretaker if case involves recent abuse or child custody dispute.

Serves Amesbury, Andover, Boxford, Byfield, Georgetown, Groveland, Haverhill, Lawrence, Merrimack, Methuen, Newbury, Newburyport, North Andover, Rowley, Salisbury and West Newbury.

NEIGHBORHOOD LEGAL SERVICES

37 Friend Street  
Lynn, MA 01902  
(781) 599-7730 or (800) 747-5056

Pro Se Divorce Clinic (In English and Spanish) for uncontested divorces for custodial and non-custodial parent as long as there is no domestic abuse. Weekly help line to answer brief family law questions via telephone. Will also provide direct representation in a limited number of domestic abuse cases in Southern Essex County (Beverly, Danvers, Essex, Gloucester, Hamilton, Ipswich, Lynn, Lynnfield, Manchester-By-the-Sea, Marblehead, Middleton, Nahant, Peabody, Rockport, Salem, Saugus, Swampscott, Topsfield and Wenham only).

LEGAL ADVOCACY & RESOURCE CENTER

Provides telephone information, pro se assistance and referrals to legal service agencies.  
Intake hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., Wednesday 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Call (800) 342-5297

Free  
resources  
offered by the  
Massachusetts  
Bar Association

LAWYER  
OF THE  
DAY

LAWYER OF THE DAY

Private, volunteer attorney offers brief consultation at the courthouse providing basic legal advice to qualifying individuals on a walk-in basis. Attorney does not continue to advise the individual after initial meeting or accompany individual into the courtroom. Attorney may not be available every day. For availability, call (978) 744-1020 or ask at the Registry of Probate.